



WEINSTEIN, L. H.

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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NEW YORK, NY 10021

September 13, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Leonard H. Weinstein
Program Director Environmental Biology
Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant
Research at Cornell University
Tower Road
Ithaca, New York 14853

Dear Dr. Weinstein:

I was interested to learn you are considering Eugene Nester as Managing Director of Boyce Thompson Institute.

Eugene Nester was a postdoctoral fellow in my lab from September 1961 to August 1962. He did pioneering work on linkage and other aspects of molecular genetics of B. subtilis, and has maintained a role of high productivity in molecular biology ever since.

His recent work on the transfer of plasmid DNA to plant cells is an important breakthrough in fundamental plant biology. It will sure also have important applications in crop improvement.

His work is insightful and particularly efficient and well organized. He is also a personable and thoughtful human being. These, generally, are just the attributes one seeks in a laboratory director. He is bound to be respected even more as a leader of an organization rather than of a school of thought. As I knew him he had a rather broad scientific culture, and he should relate well to all aspects of his role at the Boyce Thompson Institute. His work on the biochemical genetics of aromatic metabolism in B. subtilis was solid and useful, and his new work on crown gall shows innovative and productive insight.

I have, of course, no direct experience of him as a professional colleague in school affairs, but he does have a deep loyalty to microbiology as an important discipline

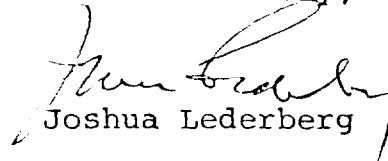
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with many ramifications for human affairs. I think you will find him tough and stubborn on the right issues, but always fair-minded and temperate.

I think he would do a first rate job at your institution. Possibly excepting Peter Carlson, I cannot think of any obviously more qualified candidate in this range of age and experience.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg